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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire

Note verbale dated 31 March 2005 from the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire and, referring to his note verbale of 17 December 2004 and pursuant to the provisions of the aforementioned resolution concerning the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraphs 7, 9 and 11, has the honour to transmit to him, hereinafter, additional information further to that contained in its note verbale No. 195 of 3 March 2005.

With regard to the weapons regime, Senegal has national legislation pursuant to Act No. 66-03 of 18 January 1966 on the general weapons and munitions regime, which severely regulates all importation, exportation and transit of weapons and war equipment on the national territory. It should also be emphasized that Senegal does not have an arms industry.

Furthermore, as a State party to the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, adopted on 31 October 1998 by the member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Senegal respects the obligation not to import, export or manufacture small arms and light weapons.

The only exceptions in this regard are related to requirements for meeting legitimate national security needs, such as regular provisions to the police and security forces or to participation in peacekeeping operations.

Moreover, the latter is provided for by the system of exemptions under article 9 of the Code of Conduct for the Implementation of the ECOWAS Moratorium on Light Weapons.

Within the framework of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), Senegal itself provides support to its troops engaged on the ground. In addition, the arms and equipment sent to Côte d'Ivoire are strictly itemized and will be fully returned to the country at the end of the United Nations mission.

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All of the measures recommended above are strictly monitored by the Ministry of the Interior through the Weapons and Munitions Office with respect to the enforcement of the Act on the weapons and munitions regime. The measures are monitored by the Ministry of the Armed Forces through the Materiel Service Directorate.

Furthermore, Senegal has established a National Commission against the Proliferation and Illicit Circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, presided over by the Ministry of the Armed Forces. It is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the ECOWAS Moratorium on Light Weapons and the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Finally, Senegal has set up border police responsible for monitoring the movements of persons and goods entering or leaving national territory.